



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Meeting Minutes 03/06/2006

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
 MINUTES OF MEETING
 7:30 PM O'NEILL ROOM, COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING
 3/6/06

ATTENDEES:

McGaffigan	Fey*	Dunn*	O'Neill*	Mahoney*
DeCoursey*	Connors*	Simmons*	Bayer*	
Tosti	Foskett*	Deyst*	Ronan*	
Ferrara*	Franclemont*	Jones*	Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*	Carman*	Kneeland*

* Indicates present

VISITORS: Capital Planning Committee members Barbara Thornton, John FitzMaurice, Tony Lionetta, Minuteman Tech Assistant Superintendent Tom Markham, Arlington Minuteman School Committee Member Laura Morrissette MINUTES of 2/27/06 meeting were accepted as printed. Unanimous.

Vice Chair Dick Fanning chaired the meeting.

BUD 20 LIBRARIES: Library SubCom (Franclemont) answered questions raised at last mtg. She stated that there are 24 small trust funds and one large one which is used to buy materials for the children's library. It contributed \$2300 to the budget & the Friends contributed \$1800. The budget funds 3 days at the Fox. The cost of adding one day at the Fox for a year is \$21000.

BUD 21b VETERANS: Library SubCom (Franclemont) requested reconsideration. Monthly expenditures have been running \$16k/mo. The budget should be increased from \$120k to \$200k. VOTED \$228311. Unanimous.

BUD 21a ADMIN: Library SubCom (Franclemont) recommended the budget as printed though the manager is planning a reorg w/ Patsy Kramer retires in June. There is uncertainty whether the Human Service funds, w/ each sub budget voted separately, can be transferred w/o Town Meeting approval. The Manager has promised no net change in \$. VOTED \$129,972 16-0-1.

DART 44 MINUTEMAN TECH: Morrissette stated that she is comfortable w/ the budget. Serving on the school's fincom, she works to improve the accounting of costs. One result is the merging of several programs.

Markham walked the FinCom through a 10 page handout. In addition to the budget pressures felt in Arlington, Minuteman is about have most of the original staff retire (20 in June). The business office line item carries insurance. Capital expenses which have increased as the school, now 30yrs old, needs more maintenance (cafeteria tables & chairs, elevators, computers). Markham explained per pupil costs, pointing out that different towns receive different quantities of extra services (middle school, PG, SPED) so that assessment/pupils served is misleading. By this measure Arlington pays \$16,501/full time equivalent student.

Markham will provide a balance sheet which DeCoursey will distribute. He was reminded that Arlington is committed to holding salary & pension increases to 4% and health insurance increases to 7%.

DART 42 CAPITAL BUDGET: The members of the Capital Planning Committee led by Chair Charlie Foskett discussed the budget with emphasis on several items: reconciliation to 5 yr operating plan, need for an integrated tax collection system, increases in a new parks & fields plan which was returned to Parks & Recreation for review, need for a professional review of the community safety bldg renovation requirements, the DPW road maintenance plan, the possible need to contribute to the rink EF to fund renovations, the large overrun (\$6m?) on Pierce Field which may go to arbitration, and fire station planning DART 32. On the last topic, The CPC will suggest a recommended vote to the BOS to form a committee to study relocating Highland Station and has included \$25k in the Capital Budget. This last topic elicited extensive discussion. In addition the FinCom received a guided tour of the new dispatch center, a recent capital project.

COMMITTEE: Next mtg Wed 3/8. School Committee 3/20. Town Manager & DART 24 Water Body Maintenance 3/22. No

mtgs 3/13 & 3/15.

RESERVE FUND BALANCE: 78,590.66 (163,590.66)

Peter B Howard Secretary 3/7/06, Revised 3/8/06

cc Selectmen, FinCom Members, Town Manager, Library File, Town Web Site FinCom Web Site